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Interview with Artie Emmet Lemaire (FA 40)

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Interviewer's tape no.: 1

WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer: Janet Tracy

Address: 311 E. 13th Street
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Interviewee: Artie Emmett Lemaire

Address:

Date: October 2, 1985

Place of interview: 311 E. 13th
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Other people present: None

Equipment used: Sony Cassette Recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:

Cassette: Brand: Scotch AVX 60 C-30 C-60 / C-90 / C-120 (circle size)

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): All (Side 2): All

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:

The interview took place in the interviewer's home at 9:00 in the morning in Bowling Green, Kentucky. It was a very relaxed, quiet atmosphere and the interview lasted for two hours uninterrupted.

The first tape consists of biographical background about the interviewee's life from earliest childhood memories including his educational background, military service and work experience. This first tape contains information about early life in Indiana including fox chasing, cutting railroad ties, work on the Ohio River and life in an old hotel.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

006.

This is October 2, 1985. I am in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in my home interviewing Artie Lemaire. We will be talking about his job selling merchandise on the corner of College and 31W. My name is Janet Tracy. This is tape 1, side 1.

Tracy: Ok, I'd like to tell you what I'm going to do with these tapes we will be recording during the interview. They will be placed in the archives of the Kentucky Museum and Library at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. They will be kept there permanently and if anyone wants to know about selling merchandise as you do, they

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Western Kentucky University

COUNTER

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can learn about it from you, how you do it yourself. After the interview I'll be asking you to sign a release which will simply say that you are willing to have us use the material in this way. Is that ok?

Lemaire: Yes.

Tracy: All right. First I'd just like to find out about you. About your life here, how long you've lived here and things like that. If anything gets too personal feel free just to not answer.

Lemaire: Oh, ok.

Tracy: Or to tell me that. And the recorder will be here but we'll ignore that. Ok, first of all I'd just like to find out when you were born if you don't mind telling me and where you were born.

Lemaire: Born March the 22nd, [pause] March the 4th, 1922.

Tracy: Ok. Where were you born?

Lemaire: Mount Pleasant, Indiana.

Tracy: Where's that?

Lemaire: Down on the Ohio River, right near Evansville and Walspur, that's a little bitty town. Grocery store, Post Office.

Tracy: Oh. What was it like there?

Lemaire: Fine. [Artie was hesitant and glanced at the recorder.]

Tracy: Was it, um, rural, was it--

Lemaire: Yes. It was a rural district and when I was real, ah rather, young, we moved about three miles from there to another little town that was Oriole, Indiana. There's where I lived during my childhood days until I left home.

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

Tracy: Did you live on a farm?

Lemaire: Yes.

Tracy: What did it look like? I've never, I'm from a city so

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Lemaire: Well, it, it was a hundred and forty-four acres and had a house and a barn and a smokehouse that we smoked all of our meat in that smokehouse. And, uh, it was just a ordinary farmhouse. Our life was farm life.

Tracy: What did your, what did your family farm?

Lemaire: You mean what did they raise?

Tracy: Yeah.

Lemaire: Corn, and uh, and we had a small fruit orchard and raised fruit and hay. That was it. About it.

Tracy: Did you then go to town to sell it?

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Lemaire: No, there wasn't any town within twenty-five miles of there. My father ran a drey wagon, or a wagon that would have produce and things, to the Ohio River and a steamboat would pick it up there and take it on up the river to Louisville and different places.

Tracy: Ok. What do you remember about your first home? About the house itself, what it looked like and--

Lemaire: Well, I don't remember anything about the first place I lived in. I moved away when I was real young.

Tracy: Oh. How about the next place?

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Lemaire: Well, yeah, I remember all about it. Oh, I liked it real well there (sighs). I had to walk two miles to school. I know that. And then after I got out of High School, uh, then they started to have school buses and I went to Consolidated School then. And finally got through high school

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there.

Tracy: Ok. I'll probably be asking you a lot about your schooling later on.

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: I wanted to find out about where you're from. Where did your parents come from?

Lemaire: My father came from South Dakota and my mother , came, well right there where my grandfather lived.

Tracy: So they came quite a ways back [meaning east from South Dakota to Indiana].

Lemaire: Yeah. And my grandparents came from Belgium. On both sides;; Lemaire and Lavaux. Oh. The gran . . . not my . . . my great grandparents on both sides lived in Belgium. And then came here and the Lemaire's went to South Dakota and the Lavaux came to this part of the country, Southern Indiana.

Tracy: How do you spell that?

Lemaire: L-e-m-a-i-r-e.

Tracy: Oh, and then the other name?

Lemaire: L-a-v-a-u-x.

Tracy: Oh, that sounds French.

Lemaire: Yep.

Tracy: Is that right?

Lemaire: It is. It's Belgium. Yeah.

Tracy: What do you remember most about your mother? When you think about her?

Lemaire: She was a hard working lady. You see life in the rural district

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Was all together different than what you see around here. There your mother and father, when they got married, they was married. You never heard of any divorce. And that's pretty well it. Mother and father, they loved one another and they lived, they lived, uh, they just lived together. Then my mother took ill and my father was ill too.

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And in Indiana at that time, now this has been several years ago, at that time if your parents weren't able to take care of you, uh, the township took the children away from the parents and put them in different places where you supported your parents. And I was taken and I was put in a place, let's see, it was twenty-five miles from home in a hotel.

A man that had a hotel. He had a chain of hotels and I was put in there to work. I was, uh, I believe eleven then. And then a teacher would pick me up at that school that lived in this town and would pick me up and take me to my original school, which was twenty-five miles away everyday.

150:

Tracy: So the teacher gave you a ride in everyday?

Lemaire: Yes. Well she just brought me back. She was a real fine lady and she was from Memphis, Tennessee. She was and she would take me to my original school. On the weekends, then, some weekends, I could go home and stay home that weekend which was real nice.

Tracy: Ok. So, I'm just kind of going back to your mother a little bit.

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Did she ever have a job outside--

Lemaire: Oh no! No, no, uh, mothers worked out. She had a job there in the home just taking care of the house, and, and us children. There were three of us. And that was pretty well it.

Tracy: Do you remember what she looked like?

Lemaire: Oh yes. I've got, I've got pictures of her at home and all that. Yeah, I remember her well.

Tracy: I'm trying to get a picture in my head of what she looked like.

167 Lemaire: Oh, she was a, a beautiful lady and [this is garbled because Artie mumbled the phrase] yeah, dressed up some time and work, uh, wore gingham dresses and all that.

And, see your families visited one another and we'd have, have people over every night then you'd sit up and you'd talk until midnight pretty well. I had an uncle lived close by and then a cousin and then a neighbor that lived across the field. I mean you weren't just stuck way out someplace? It was pretty nice. Everybody could visit one another good.

Tracy: So is that usually what you did for your socializing?

Lemaire: Oh, yeah.

Tracy: Everyday?

Lemaire: Yeah. We used to visit and then the children would, uh, go play with other children in the neighborhoods during the day at certain times.

Tracy: A lot like they do now.

Lemaire: Yeah, only they went a little farther.

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Tracy: Oh. Then your father. Tell me about your father.

Lemaire: Well, my father, as I say, he came from South Dakota here and, uh, well, I guess they, they had never met. No, I know they had never met until he came here.

Tracy: To Indiana?

191 Lemaire: Yes. To Indiana, and, un, well, I imagine that's what he he came for. They got married, and then my mother's father gave them, I believe it was uh . . . all right, these farms I'm talking about are in one hundred forty-four acres. A hundred forty-four acres they call a square. A square. All right. That's about how. All right, my grandfather divided, he accumulated a lot of land. So he divided his farm up in squares and he gave my mother, the daughter, gave her a square. Then he gave one of my mother's brother, gave him a square. So all of them had, had, so much acres in this one great big square. You know what I'm talking about?

207 And that's the way he put them, had their homes. They had to build, my father and mother on the first home. Now, I went back there and visited several times. The home was never sold. It will always remain there. And my father made the lumber and everything for the house. He would split out the shingles out of wood. I helped with that. And that's the way the first place was more or less.

Tracy: What kind of house was it? Was it--

Lemaire: Board wood, not painted. No, none of the houses was painted that I ever seen then.

Tracy: How did you protect them from the weather?

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Lemaire: They just weathered.

Tracy: Hum.

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Lemaire: Yeah, but like when my mother died and, and father and all that, the old home place looked like whenever anybody would leave, the place would just fall down in about a year or so. (Laughter) You know.

Tracy: That's what I heard that a house, if it is lived in will stay in good shape. Once people move out, they just kind of die.

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Is that kind of what happened?

Lemaire: Yeah. Yes. The place just I went back there and then a neighbor boy bought the place. He was real young when I was there. He bought the home place there. Then he built a nice brick home on it now.

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But us, we, my brother and I, we used to go back there. I haven't been there for quite awhile but we'd go rabbit hunt and go back there and see it. It was beautiful. Had pear trees, right to the, between the well and the house. Had two big pear trees, and they had fruit each year and then they was maple trees in the yard, a big cedar tree. Then we had, like I said, had fruit orchards and I don't know where that even came in that.

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My uncle was kind of like me. He, he had a, my uncle had the grocery store in this town. He, it was two miles from there. That was his farm that we moved on. That was my uncle's. All right. He was the Post Master, the store-keeper. The "dirties". Yeah, all of those

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keeper, the Undertaker. Yeah, he was all of those (laughs). And he, he run, uh, my father would haul all this stuff to, you know, to the river, and I would go with him.

But the biggest treat I ever remember in my childhood was that, well we'd go, we had six, we had four big mules and two little mules in front pulling. And we'd go meet this big steamboat and those darkies would unload that steamboat and put all the grocery store stuff in there. And I I don't think I've ever seen before, before this or after. But one time my Uncle got some pink, uh, bananas. And I was sitting back in the wagon (laughter) and I ate so many of them, I like to got sick and I, I remember I, I had a girl there I was struck on. She was, we was, I must of been nine or ten and I saved one of them big pink (laughs) bananas (laughs) and I gave it to her.

Tracy: Big pink bananas?

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Lemaire: Yes, pink. They sure was . They was pink.

Tracy: Did it taste the same as the yellow ones?

Lemaire. Yeah. Best I remember it did. But they was pink. I, I'll always remember that.

Tracy: I've never seen a pink banana.

Lemaire: Yeah. That one was. That whole stalk was.

Tracy: That's amazing. So, uh, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

Lemaire: I had one brother and one sister. Now during this time when they sent us all out. My brother went to the CC Camp. Did

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you ever hear of C C Camps?

Tracy: No, what kind of

Lemaire: That was right, uh, well (sighs) during Roosevelt's administration. They had the WPA for the older men and the boys. This was a, like an army camp but it was young men. They wore uniforms and they would all in a big camp and they would set out pine trees all over, uh, Southern Indiana and I guess all over the United States. But all I know of in Southern Indiana they did that. My brother--

Tracy: C C Camp?

Lemaire: Yeah, C C Camp. I did know uh, it's conservation.

Tracy: I think it's Civilian Conservation Camp.

Lemaire: Yeah, that's what it is. Civilian uh, I don't, I, it's been so long but I've got pictures. I have all the family pictures from the, here on, right on through. Sometime you said you wanted to see what I look like. I can show you. In fact, I've got them all when I was a kid, right before I left home.

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One time in this my uncle had a job for me and I went there. And that was carrying the mail forty miles, forty-four miles a day on a mule. Well, they was three mules. They'd have them at different places and they was a horse once in awhile. If you was lucky (laughs) you'd get a And you'd go there in the morning and you'd come back. You'd leave at 4:00 in the morning and be back by about 8:00. Of course I was just sixteen then.

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Tracy: You did that with your brother?

Lemaire: No. I did that by myself.

Tracy: You did that by yourself.

Lemaire: I left uh my Uncle took me and I got out of the hotel and it was a long time before I went back to the hotel.

Tracy: Did you . . . were you . . . your brother was older than you or--

Lemaire: Yes, he was older.

Tracy: Did he stay there? What, what did he do when you went to the hotel.

Lemaire: He went to live in the C C Camp and my sister, they sent her to Illinois. And she never did come back from there then.

Tracy: Did you ever see her again?

Lemaire: Oh yeah, yeah. Yeah, she's still living in, let's see, my brother's five years older than I am and my sister's five years older than my brother. My brother'd be sixty-seven and she would be seventy-two.

Tracy: Do you still see her?

Lemaire: I haven't seen her for probably a year.

Tracy: Do you go to visit?

Lemaire: Yeah. I've stayed with her.

Tracy: That's not too far from here.

Lemaire: Oh, no. It's not that far but I was always so I couldn't go. She, uh, she comes to see me more than I go to see her.

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Tracy: Well, when she went to Illinois she was um, how much older than you?

Lemaire: Well, she'd be ten years older than me.

Tracy: So she was about twenty-one then when--

Lemaire: Yes, I guess she was.

Tracy: Until then she lived at home?

Lemaire: Yeah, she stayed home.

Tracy: What did Did she go to school?

Lemaire: Um. I don't think she got through. She probably went through the eighth grade. My brother did, too, probably. And I went ahead through high school, but staying in a hotel I was pretty good then. I had money in my back pocket. Nobody else had money. And I was making a living.

Tracy: What did your brother end up doing for a living then?

Lemaire: Well, let's see. It. This was Indiana. That's where I was in the hotel at. Sunlight Hotel [he repeated the name several times but was unable to spell it for me] Indiana. And he lived at [same unintelligible name] Indiana and he worked in the cotton mill there. This cotton mill was right beside the Ohio River. The Ohio River played a great part in everybody's life because that was the way they . . . there weren't any train through there to speak of. So everything was taken in and out on the Ohio River.

Tracy: Is that a lot like the Mississippi River or--

Lemaire: Yeah, only not quite as, uh, not, it isn't quite as wide.

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It's deep and it's clear where the Mississippi is a little muddy.

Tracy: Did you go on the river a lot?

Lemaire: Oh yeah, I could swim the Ohio River (chuckle).

Tracy: Really?

Lemaire: Yeah. Time when I was fifteen or sixteen I could swim it there and rest about half hour and come back.

Tracy: I'll be darned.

Lemaire: Yeah. But when you did that you always had a boat beside of you. You know, you could take cramps or you could an undercurrent or anything but, no, I, I swam in the river a lot. And I fished in it.

Tracy: Hum. Well anyway, what I'm hearing, your brother, you were separated from your brother and sister when you were eleven.

Lemaire: Yeah, more, yeah, we didn't live together any more after that.

Tracy: Did you have any other relatives that you were real close to then?

Lemaire: No, not particularly. Now from then on I was pretty well on my own.

Tracy: Was that unusual for those days? At that age?

Lemaire: Well, I believe we, we were the poorest family in that [garbled] country around there due to the fact my father was a, sick. He would take asthma and had asthma awful bad in the wintertime but, uh, then nobody ever gave no nothing like they do now. You didn't get food stamps. County didn't give you nothing. You didn't get clothes.

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You didn't have no Salvation Army, Catholic Church. We were all Catholics then. And nobody never gave you nothing. Only thing I ever remember getting was one time, was a ten pound of oatmeal and we had to walk fifteen miles to get that.

Tracy: What kind of meal?

Lemaire: Oatmeal. Just ground oats.

Tracy: Oh, oatmeal.

Lemaire: Oatmeal, yeah. Just like we eat.

Tracy: Ten pounds of oatmeal.

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Lemaire: Yeah, and I remember that it had a big red cross on a white sack and we went at night to get that so nobody would of see us. My father was very proud. He didn't want nobody to know that anybody would see us. And that's all we ever did get. So then, that was the bad way.

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We all went out and my brother, my brother and I, we helped our parents. They took so much out of it and gave our parents. But my sister when she went to Illinois, she got married and then she didn't help out. She was putting on then, she didn't Then my brother, he got married and things got a little better. Then I kept on supporting my mother and father. But then my mother died.

And then when I went into the service. I went into the service from that hotel. I volunteered and went in

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to get away from that hotel. I didn't like it then. And, uh then I, let's see, I gave so much out of my army check, allotments they called it. Government allotments. I gave that, send that home each month to my parents. I don't remember exactly how much they sent, send back, but it wasn't all that much and to show you how conservative they was when I got away and in the big city, I knew quite a bit about the way of life from being in that hotel in a river town. And when I go in Washington D.C. and all those towns, I was having myself a pretty good time and my mother would always save enough out of that check at the end of the month to send me money. She would send me money all the time (laughs) so that worked out pretty good.

Tracy: Reversal.

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: I'm interested in that hotel. What did it look like?

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Lemaire: Well, It was a beautiful old hotel overlooking the Ohio River, and uh, it was brick and had four big columns in front. It was two story hotel. And it I would work nights a lot and you could go out there every night and sit on the porch and you could see those big boats coming up and the ones that knew you, a lot of then knew you because they stayed there. They would shine the light on the hotel. And then sometimes they would stop there to get supplies. And I knew a lot of them from there.

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And one captain was from there. Now, being, well let's see, it was just a little farther from here to that space across the street from the river bank. And when it would rain, then you had a flood on your hands. And I remember one time the water getting up in the lobby right up to the first floor. That was during what was the '37 flood.

Tracy: '37 flood was a real bad one?

Lemaire: 1937. Yeah. That's right before I went in the army. And when I went down we had to clean all that out, hose it down, we'd be back in business. But now in the place they got a big flood wall built. And the cotton mill's out, the town's dried up and I go back there and it looks pitiful. That town used to be good. But the cotton mill people got independent. They went out on strike and then, and the men that owned the company they moved the company out and all the cotton mill hands sat around and talked about the hard times. You know, they all turned in to be alcoholics. That's about what happened to it.

Tracy: To the town now?

Lemaire: Yeah. And up the main street that used to be good to have little shops you know, the little junk shops. Nothing much in them.

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Tracy: Is the hotel still there?

Lemaire: Yeah. But it isn't much. It's just a

Tracy: Do people still stay there?

Lemaire: Yeah. Some of them stay. Not, maybe some stay regular. But that hotel when I was there was new. The one that was there right before I went, it burned down. Then they had this new one when I went. Had a big bar in it, big night club, bowling alley, slot machine rooms and then a big gambling room.

Tracy: Was that legal?

Lemaire: No. But we did it.

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Tracy: Yeah, I didn't think so (chuckle).

Lemaire: And, uh, there when I was a kid, I knew all about the slot machines. I could fix them and I could tend bar when I was real young. Way they caught me one time and fined the man that owned it \$500.00 for me selling liquor to a minor. And I wasn't much over fourteen (laughs). They didn't know I was a lot younger. [The rest of the sentence is lost in laughter.] Yeah. They'd get a lot of young people come in there at night. The bar and all the gambling rooms and everything was in the basement. They called it a Ratskellar. Did you ever hear that word used? That's what it was, bowling and had a; this was ten pin bowling alley. It wasn't a regular big duck pins. And then finally we moved

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the kitchen down in the basement and I learned to cook there, learned to cook good there. Learned to cook, well, just about anything (laughs) which came in handy later on.

Tracy: It sure does. Do you remember your grandparents at all?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Did you know them?

Lemaire: Yeah. I knew, I knew my grandmother. Not my grand-grandfather. He died, uh, well, I don't know for sure when he died but I knew my grandmother real well. And I knew, I remember when she died real well. I remember seeing her dead there. See, if anybody was real sick and you had to have a doctor, all right, you had to ride about, well, in this case it was twenty miles. Then that doctor had to get on his horse and ride back and it would take a day and a half to get a doctor. And, you ran into a lot of trouble there when children was born too. A lot. I remember all that well, that kind of mother, some other kind of . . . I don't know what they call them.

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Tracy: Midwife?

Lemaire: Yeah (laughter). Yeah, I remember my grandmother and I, and then I have pictures of her. I don't

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know how I came up with all the family pictures.

But I got them.

Tracy: That's nice.

Lemaire: And then I've lost them a time or two, but then I find them again. Return somehow. Ordeals in life.

Tracy: Did they farm too? Your grandparents then?

Lemaire: Yeah, farms and timber.

Tracy: Oh, that's really interesting.

Lemaire: Yeah, that happened. They'd cross ties.

Tracy: What's that?

Lemaire: What they put railroad tracks on. You hew them out. You had broad axes.

Tracy: Is that what your grandfather did?

Lemaire: Yeah. I mean hell, everybody did that to get money.

Tracy: I mean you got paid? It was a job?

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Lemaire: No. You would farm but you would had money too, maybe for Christmas to have a little something so you'd go out and cut some trees down and hew them out cross ties. Hew cross ties out. And then you would then up and you would take them into town. And that's when you'd get your money. You wouldn't cut down all the timber.

Tracy: No. That sounds like a lot of hard work.

Lemaire: Well, yeah. But that's one way of having money.

Tracy: Right.

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Lemaire: Yeah, all the, the farms had a lot of good timber on them. And that was uh, well, you got money if you had all right, none of my mother and father or aunts or uncles, they didn't have loan payments because their land was given to them.

Tracy: By the government?

Lemaire: By my grandfather. And mother.

Tracy: Oh, right.

Lemaire: And that's the way that was. But some of them that was the way they paid their loan payments and different things that they had come due. And to live on, you know, you lived off a eggs. You took eggs to the market. I don't remember selling any hogs. Everybody ate them. You had butcherings and so on in the country.

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Tracy: Butcherings in the country?

Lemaire: Yeah, all over the country. All right, say we had, we're gonna kill two or three hogs. Well, then neighbors would come and help us kill them hogs that day and then maybe a week later we'd all go help somebody else. That was a big affair.

Tracy: Butchering hogs?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Was it [pause] fun?

Lemaire: Sure. We went there and you would, you would eat

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fresh meat for dinner and you'd all visit and talk and hear some awful stories (laughter). Some good ones, yeah.

Tracy: I just, I never thought of hog butchering being a social occasion but I--

Lemaire: Oh, yeah. It was very definite a big occasion.

Tracy: What time of the year did you do that?

Lemaire: In the fall. You see, you had no, you had, no it was in the winter, it wasn't fall. You had no way of keeping your meat. It had to freeze in the smoke-house.

Tracy: Of course. I don't think of these things because--

Lemaire: But it would, I don't, I don't try to understand it now. Because I can buy a pork chop and put it in the refrigerator and it looks like it's gone in a day or two, but now they would have to take the, they salted the ham. And they could hang them up in there and those hams would be good from that fall until next spring. That's where you get your country ham.

Tracy: Right.

Lemaire: There's some people does it the fast way. Can do it in a very short time. You know fast curing and all that? But now, the hams, not the shoulders,

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523	<p>then we'd have ham and so--</p> <p>Tracy: So you had meat all year.</p> <p>Lemaire: Oh yeah, yeah. But . . . I don't in the summer you didn't have any.</p> <p>Tracy: Oh, ok.</p> <p>Lemaire: You would kill a chicken on Sunday.</p> <p>Tracy: Every Sunday?</p> <p>Lemaire: Yeah, about.</p> <p>Tracy: You know, that's funny, at my great grandparents, lived in Colorado, and I don't remember them very well but I do remember going to the little town that they lived in and having chicken every Sunday.</p> <p>Lemaire: Yeah. Have chicken. And my mother would, well fry chicken a lot. But she would cook it with rice. And I can cook it like she did but I've never seen it served any place like that. I've , I've served it in restaurants that belonged just to me. I've done it. But that was something special. She'd always cook. Then you had[End of the tape, side 1, break in train of thought.]</p> <p>END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE</p> <p>BEGINNING SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE</p> <p>All around our house was a, it was in a big L. And my father had a fence. All right, from the fence they was this [Artie mumbled at this point and I was unable to decipher the next three or four words] grew</p>
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up and we had, well trellis or whatever they called it that's the way we'd make shade all around during the summer time.

Tracy: Because you didn't have air conditioning.

Lemaire: Oh, no. You had no air conditioning, or no fans. There was, we didn't have electricity either. So it wouldn't matter but we, you could sit under there and talk and you could hear stories from way back.

Tracy: I bet that's how you learned a lot too.

Lemaire: I learned most things about to become a great fox chaser.

Tracy Really?

Lemaire: [Mumbled a short sentence I am unable to understand.]

Tracy: What's a, what did you do? What's fox chasing?

Lemaire: I had, I had hound dogs. You would go out of a night and you'd turn your dogs loose and they would jump a fox, and they would run it and then you'd sit around a big fire and you, you could hear all the old timers with old stories. That was an older men's game. You could sit all night and hear all the stories about ever, about the whole country. Well then, I was, well this was when I went back home from the hotel there, uh, for awhile and I was like, uh, thirteen, and the men, the fox chasers were about the age I am now. And you could hear all the gossip in the

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neighborhood and well, they'd make it more interesting than it was all of it, and it was good.

Tracy: Of course.

Lemaire: No, it wouldn't be bad. They'd tell funny things. Just everybody'd do a lot of laughing. You know, they'd be

Tracy: What would you do with the foxes?

Lemaire: Well, you never caught them.

Tracy: Oh you didn't?

Lemaire: They would run, no they'd run and in the hole and that'd be it. And then we'd go. Your dogs would come home and rest and then go again the next night.

Tracy: It must of been fun.

Lemaire: It was fun, yeah. Yeah, and then later on in life I got back into it. A long time past that.

Tracy: Into fox chasing?

Lemaire: Yeah. In a bigger way.

Tracy: That sounds fun.

Lemaire: Yeah it is. You had a fox horn. It was a cow horn about that long [he measures about a foot with his hands]. You would blow it of a night. I would and another boy was lived down below me, we'd get together and blow the horn and all the dogs would come to you and we'd got ahead and start the fox to running and then all these other men would come later on and be setting at the fire and then we would uh,

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COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>listen at them talk. See the fox would run in circles, in about two mile circles. They would come in here so you could tell each dog, each man could tell his own dog, could tell if he was in front or behind or if he ain't barking or whatever and then they come in here and then everybody would be real quiet to see whose dog is in the lead. And then they'd be gone out of here and in maybe twenty minutes. And then you'd talk and then you'd listen once in a while to hear them come back. You'd stay out until about 3:00 in the morning. My school teacher was a fox hunter.</p> <p>Tracy: The woman or the man?</p> <p>Lemaire: Man! Man, he was, uh, my grade school teacher in that time he was a fox chaser.</p> <p>Tracy: Where did you go to school?</p> <p>Lemaire: I went to school in Oriole, Indiana and then I went to St. Croix, Indiana to, to Consolidated School there.</p> <p>Tracy: What was the first school, what town?</p> <p>Lemaire: Oriole.</p> <p>Tracy: O-r-i-o-l-e?</p> <p>Lemaire: Right. And I went back there, let's see how many years ago was that? Like, uh, six or seven years ago and then two school houses are still standing</p>

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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there.

Tracy: Do they still use them for anything?

Lemaire: No. They're like a monument (laughs). Where, because so many of us failed in there, that old place, [muttered, unable to decipher] teacher. It was a town, it must of been thirty miles from there, English, Indiana. And, he was a good teacher. But we was all so dumb that he failed everyone of us. Then this teacher who'd fox hunt with us, he'd get in there the next year. See, the trustee appointed him.

I failed three times. I know my brother two times. All of us boys would fail. Then this, one that was a fox hunter, I told you, the neighbor, well, he would come and he would pass us and get us a going again. (laughs). We wasn't used to that high class teacher.

Tracy: Well, how old were you when you first started school?

Lemaire: Six.

Tracy: And that was in Oriole, Indiana?

Lemaire: Yeah, Oriole.

Tracy: And, was it . . . how many rooms in the school?

Lemaire: One.

Tracy: One room and you had one teacher. Do you remember

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that one teacher?

Lemaire: That first one? Yeah, his name was Vic Gibson.
Yeah.

Tracy: Vic?

Lemaire: Vic Gibson. Yeah.

Tracy: Oh, then you had a man?

Lemaire: The first one.

Tracy: Was that unusual?

Lemaire: No. All was men then.

Tracy: Oh, I thought they were all women then.

Lemaire: Oh no, they had to be all men, some of them boys
was as big as I am now (laughs) in first and second
grade.

Tracy: So how many years did you go to that first school?

Lemaire: Well, ten.

Tracy: Oh, ten years in that one?

Lemaire: Yeah, I failed two.

Tracy: Ok. I understand.

Lemaire: (Laughs.) Yeah, there was one lady teacher there,
Addie, came during last. Her name was Addie Kaiser,
an old maid.

Tracy: Addie Kaiser? So she was the last teacher in the
first school?

Lemaire: Yeah, Addie, yeah, she was the last one.

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COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	Tracy: And then you went to the Consolidated School.
	Lemaire: Yeah.
	Tracy: And where was that?
	Lemaire: Over at St. Croix, St. Croix, Indiana.
	Tracy: Ok. What grades did you go there?
	Lemaire: To St. Croix? Well, I went to Freshmen in High School. Sophomore, Junior and Senior.
	Tracy: Right.
	Lemaire: Yeah.
	Tracy: So you graduated from there?
	Lemaire: Yeah. Eventually.
	Tracy: You stayed a long time? (Laugh.)
	Lemaire: Yeah. I did have a little trouble there.
	Tracy: Well, that's good.
	Lemaire: Uh, I really believe I took the teacher with me there. He was, he went there. I re . . . I think he was, well we had all different teachers. You know.
	Tracy: It was a bigger school?
	Lemaire: Oh, yeah. You had each class was a different teacher. He was [unable to understand the last word.]
173	Tracy: Is this the fox hunter?
	Lemaire: Yeah. [The teacher but I am unable to understand the first word] he was a fine man though. He

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TRANSCRIPTION

was real good.

Tracy: What subjects did you study mainly?

Lemaire: In a, high school?

Tracy: Uh, huh.

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Lemaire: Well, let's see. I took, uh, English. I remember English and geometry, biology, chemistry and I had three years of Home Ec.

Tracy: You had Home Ec?

Lemaire: I took three years of it.

Tracy: I didn't know that boys did that then.

Lemaire: I didn't take typing. I got scared of the teacher (laughs). And I didn't take typing.

Tracy: Was it a woman teacher?

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Lemaire: Yes. She was a little, she was a small woman. She was nice. I got to liking her better but the first day she turned and put, got behind me, put her arms over my shoulder, took my two fingers and was going like that [Artie pressed his two fingers down on the table] and I got out of there. And, the, Home Ec teacher was our neighbor and I had fell in love with her. A long time ago (laughs). No, I, she was, she was a beautiful woman I remember and she didn't live about a quarter of a mile. They was several of us. And she was real nice and so I

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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took Home Ec from her.

Tracy: What did you learn there?

Lemaire: Oh, I learned, oh I learned cooking, more about cooking and I learned sewing.

Tracy: Did you learn how to sew?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Did you ever use it?

Lemaire: Yeah, I use it, Yeah.

Tracy: Well, I think that's wonderful. I don't think a lot of men do.

Lemaire: Yeah, well I'd be in awful shape now because any time I need to mend my pants I sit down and sew it if I'm not in a hurry and sometime I use the modern way, take a stapler and just [made a gesture as if stapling his pants] and do that (laughs). I've gotten a jacket, in fact a lady asked me the other day, said, "Did you put safety pins all over that?" I said, "No, I just stapled it." (Laughs.) I did that.

Tracy: Well, it works.

Lemaire: Yeah. But now I sew. I sew buttons and whatever.

Tracy: Did you ever make a garment?

Lemaire: Yeah. I made, let's see, what did . . . we crocheted a, crocheted table pattern.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

Tracy: You learned to crochet?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Do you still use that?

Lemaire: No. I don't use that as much. But I know one of the boys that did that can crochet and he does all that now pretty good. He still does it.

Tracy: Somebody else that took Home Ec?

Lemaire: Oh yeah. All of them normally, Now they was several of us boys. About four, four of us.

Tracy: I see. I'm amazed because when I was in school boys never took Home Ec.

Lemaire: Well, they, some of the things we didn't take. You know, some of the girl type things, that we didn't take, but, we would take other things. Well, this, this teacher, she was very good. She, I mean it was interesting for the boys.

Tracy: Yeah. I think it's great. They're starting to now-a-days.

Lemaire: One time we cooked, the boys, just the boys, we cooked a banquet for all the teachers and the County Superintendent and everything. But I, when I, when, [stuttered making the next few words hard to hear] always been cooking in a hotel. I learned it and of course, it was different than cooking a whole new

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COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	thing than in a hotel.
	Tracy: And you were living in the hotel by
	Lemaire: I was then. In this part. Yeah.
	Tracy: What was your favorite subject then?
	Lemaire: Home Ec!
	Tracy: Home Ec. (Laughs.)
	Lemaire: Well, I took bookkeeping, I remember bookkeeping and [long pause] oh, I think that's about all we took. Chemistry, biology.
	Tracy: That's a lot.
	Lemaire: And, I know just about as much now about Algebra as I did when I started and I never did know too much about it. But somehow I passed. And I wish now I'd let that little old woman took about two more of my fingers and learned me to type now. I wished many a time I had took it. But I didn't, she was real fine. And her name was Miss Dant.
	Tracy: Dance?
	Lemaire: Dant. D-a-n-t. Yeah. She was real good.
	Tracy: But you were afraid of her?
260	Lemaire: Yeah. No. I wasn't afraid of her. I didn't, I just didn't like her (laughs) for some reason. You know.
	Tracy: Yeah, I think sometimes small teachers can be mean!
	Lemaire: Well, oh I never was afraid of her but, but she, course I was always pretty good in school. Yeah,

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

I, that's one thing I can say I've done. I've never done any, too many mean things in my life. Really. I've done, uh, I've never been in jail. Yeah, only, I've been in there several times holding service in jail. I still do here. In, in, the back over in the women's cell, and I go in to the cell if they let me in. But as far as being locked up or anything I've never done [at this point Artie mumbled the next sentence].

Tracy: That's a good thing to be able to say.

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Lemaire: Yeah, no, never got a parking ticket even in my life.

Tracy: I just got one today.

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Lemaire: Oh, no! (Laughs.) Yeah. I tell you. That's one thing my mother, my father, they never did whip any of us children but they would sit down, my mother would sit down and talk and tell us about the people in the neighborhood and how that man is mean and he does this, he's mean and you see he ain't got nothing and God's not a helping him and all of that. And boy, it just scared me. My brothers never, or, my sister, they've never been in jail or got a parking ticket or nothing else, I--

Tracy: So you think that's from what your Mom used to say?

Lemaire: Oh, I definitely, yeah.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

Tracy: That's good.

Lemaire: That part was. Maybe some parts I didn't listen to, too much.

Tracy: That would be normal.

Lemaire: Yeah, not too good, I don't

Tracy: Did you ever go to school beyond high school then?

Lemaire: Have I?

Tracy: Uh huh.

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: What kind of schools?

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Lemaire: Well, one time I went to hotel training school. and that, well, that took in cooking and bookkeeping and system.

Tracy: That's a hard job.

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Lemaire: And then I went to bible theology, school.

Tracy: Did you graduate from there?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: And so then you became a minister?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Is that where you, uh, I noticed on the card you gave me, it says, "Dr. Artie Lemaire."

Lemaire: Yeah, I got my, I got my degree there. I went back to the second town.

Tracy: Where was that? Where was the school?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

Lemaire: That was in Oklahoma.

Tracy: Oh.

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Did you really like that?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: I've heard that's real hard. Studying. You have to study a lot. Excuse me [I had to go to the bathroom to blow my nose].

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Lemaire: You had to, had to study a lot there. [About a five second pause.] You know when you've heard of the university at Norman, Norman, Oklahoma haven't you?

Tracy: University of where?

Lemaire: At Norman, Oklahoma.

Tracy: No, but I don't know that much about this part of the country.

Lemaire: Oh. It's the University of Oklahoma.

Tracy: So that's, that's where you went.

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Lemaire: Yeah. I had, well that's another part of my life there. But I wasn't that religious up to then. Not really. See this happened back in 1947 after I came out of the army.

Tracy: Right, I see. Oh, you went to school after you came out of the army.

Lemaire: I went to college. I mean to the university after

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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I came out.

Tracy: All right. Ok. So then you became a minister after that?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: Did you go to church as a kid?

Lemaire: Yeah, we went about once a year. But we were Catholics, all Catholics.

Tracy: And you went once a year?

Lemaire: Yeah. Everybody. Well, you see, we had to walk about twenty miles.

Tracy: Oh, you walked twenty miles to church!

Lemaire: To the church.

Tracy: Because you were out of town.

Lemaire: Yeah, there wasn't no Catholic churches around there.

Tracy: And you didn't have cars or horses or anything to get you to church.

Lemaire: Well, we had them but we just didn't go every Sunday. They was other churches around but if you was a Catholic, it was a sin to go in to anybody else's church. We'd go around and watch them on the outside. They'd do some things that was kind of amusing to us. Well, we'd watch them (laughs) but I don't know where they ever got that idea it was a sin, but it was.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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Tracy: I've heard that too.

Lemaire: Well, it's not. But that's the way and we were all Catholics.

Tracy: So you must of at some time quit being a Catholic.

Lemaire: Yeah. I got married out of church.

Tracy: Oh, your wife was not a Catholic.

Lemaire: No. And got married out of church, and, oh, I still like [the] Catholic Church and all. You see before you, all right, people says, well you have ministers running around that's never been to school or anything. You know. They're regular ministers. And they'll say, I've heard them say, well, "Is he ordained?" Well, there's you're "if you're ordained"! Now, you're ordained twice. I guess because you've got to be ordained by God first and then ordained by men and I don't ^{know} what ordained by men ^{meant}. I been that but I don't really know what that really meant. Really, I was ordained too, I could've preached but, just as good as I ^{can} now when I came back from overseas. Because I was a prisoner over there for thirteen months by myself and I learned a lot then. (Laughs.)

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Tracy: I bet.

Lemaire: I learned how to live.

Tracy: Is that when you became more religious?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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Lemaire: Yes, uh huh.

Tracy: So you went to church as a child about once a year and then after you moved to--

Lemaire: Oh, at, yeah, we would, we would all go on Palm Sunday to get palmed.

Tracy: Did you go on Christmas?

Lemaire: No.

Tracy: That's the one time I always go.

Lemaire: No. No. I never went. I never started going really to, on Christmas so much until I got with the Salvation Army. Right. Then you'd have, you have, let's see, midnight service, then.

Tracy: Well, what did the church teach you then as a child that you remember?

Lemaire: Well, all right, you're, my mother and father was teaching us all the time. See, they had gone to church, my father was a Catholic. He had gone to church as young. And my, I guess, great-great grandfather, anyway, they all knew about the church and so, they would teach us all along and then a priest would come every so often.

Tracy: To teach you things?

Lemaire: Well no, he would come and he would spend the day and he would have dinner with us and talk and just

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	a nice visit. It was real nice.
	Tracy: I remember you saying that the Catholic Church taught you that it's a sin to go to another church and I was wondering--
	Lemaire: Well, yeah, our parents--
	Tracy: Were there other things that they taught you like that? Or, I mean, good or bad, it doesn't matter.
	Lemaire: Well, well, yeah. They just taught you that, just taught the way of life. The way to live.
	Tracy: By the bible?
389	Lemaire: Yeah. By the . . . like your mother and father. They taught you the Ten Commandments and that was through the church.
	Tracy: Right.
	Lemaire: And them Ten Commandments, you've heard them enough, really, they just didn't say this commandment, thou shall not do this and so on and thou will do this. I mean they would just go in detail and the way to live. You know, the way to adjust your life. And that's--
	Tracy: So church itself wasn't a real big part of your life?
	Lemaire: No, no, no. Well until, church wasn't any part of my life, I would say, until, well in '47 or '48.
	Tracy: Ok.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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Lemaire: You know. No, no, it wasn't no part.

Tracy: It was just too far away, wasn't it?

Lemaire: Well. I just ignored it. I knew right from wrong, but I wasn't doing it all the time. I don't mean, I wasn't doing anything that bad. I was al . . . I was just doing things to myself. That's, you know, wasn't too bad, wasn't too good.

Tracy: Ok. I just, going back to when you were a kid.

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: You worked on a farm, then, until you went to the hotel, right?

Lemaire: Oh yeah.

Tracy: And then when you got to the hotel did you have jobs there?

Lemaire: I did, yeah.

Tracy: And that's where you learned to cook?

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Lemaire: Yeah, I, uh, I learned all the jobs by the time I was, when I went into the army when I was eighteen, but that, by the time I was seventeen, I knew all the jobs in the hotel.

Tracy: Did you ever work on the river?

Lemaire: No.

Tracy: No jobs on the river?

Lemaire: I always wanted, I wanted to, but I never did. I just never did, don't know why. I would, they was

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
417	<p>a ferry went across the Ohio River there and you could go ride that of a night, you know, free and that was always a place take your girlfriend. You didn't have no car, you'd go ride across the ferry and talk, go in and sit down. Well there'd be several, you know, young kids. They was, that was fun.</p> <p>Tracy: That sounds nice.</p> <p>Lemaire: Yeah.</p> <p>Tracy: Better than riding around in a car, I think.</p> <p>Lemaire: And then back on, when we was on the farm, we had horses, cattle.</p> <p>Tracy: Oh, you had cattle too.</p> <p>Lemaire: Oh, yeah.</p> <p>Tracy: Was that for milk or meat?</p> <p>Lemaire: Well, milk. We go, yeah, I remember them a killing one or two, not too many.</p> <p>Tracy: It wasn't like the hog butchering?</p> <p>Lemaire: Oh, no. No, but, I don't know, a cow was kind of different. On account a, I don't know. I don't know what they're different but, that was just an animal like a horse. You liked real well. I did. I had a pony. I had a good pony all the time. And when I left, it stayed on the farm and it died when I went in the army. When I was in the army sometime. My parents took care of it until,</p>
428	

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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it was, I believe it was thrity years old.

Tracy: So you went in the army when you were eighteen?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: What was that like? When was that? What, what year:

Lemaire: Let's see. If I'm thinking, it was in '39. Now there's some dates that, that I don't remember exactly but I believe it was '39.

Tracy: Where did you go?

Lemaire: I went to Cape Atterbury, Indiana, the first place.

Tracy: Cape where?

Lemaire: Atterbury, Indiana.

Tracy: Never heard of that.

Lemaire: Yeah, in Indianapolis.

Tracy: How do you spell--

Lemaire: A-double t -e-r, A-double t-e-r-b-u-r-y.

Tracy: I think I better write that down. A-t-t-e-r-b-e-r-y?

Lemaire: b-u-r-y

Tracy: b-u, Atterbury and, and is that a military base or something?

Lemaire: Yeah. Induction center.

Tracy: Oh, ok.

Lemaire: From there, you stayed there for five days, there was a big snow when I went there and from there we went to Vent Hill, Virginia.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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Tracy: Vent Hill?

Lemaire: Vent Hill, Virginia. That was a place just out in the pine woods and when we got there, there was mud deep that night and we went in the barracks and nobody'd ever been in the infantry and I just stayed there a week.

Tracy: That was when you very first joined up?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: What's Vent Hill? Is that two words? Vent Hill?

Lemaire: Vent Hill.

Tracy: Like v-e-n-t then hill?

Lemaire: Yeah.

Tracy: All right.

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Lemaire: Then, we was there, you know, you had to fall out for inspection and all that. Then after we was there, no this was about two weeks, I guess I said seven days. Now, all the men that was there was from Kentucky and Tennessee and around. And we was big, tall and stupid looking, you know (laughs) and stupid, of course. We all fell out there, uh myself, I was 6'1", They was another old boy there from down in, uh, let's see where was he from, McManville, Tennessee. He was about 6'2" and, we was standing there and I don't know why kindly'd look up at him and they was a bunch of officers come there. They was just dressed to kill.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

I thought and they'd come along and they looked at us a little bit and they said, "You two go, fall out there in front." We went out there and they went through and they picked about three of us to go get our barracks bags. Took us to guard the White House (laughs).

Tracy: Oh, is that right?

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Lemarie: (Laughs) Yeah. Yeah we was . . . they couldn't get nobody no taller and no stupider looking, so we, that's what we did for a long time. And me and this one boy, we became very good friends. His name was Nelson Locke. We were, in fact, we was running in and out of each other's lives for, until he died here in Bowling Green, uh, about ten years ago.

Tracy: You always stayed friends?

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Lemarie: Yeah. We would. One time, I, he, worked for me and then it turned around again and I, then I went to work for him. Yeah, and then he became a minister once and then his wife worked for me. Yeah, this was, it was all in this period of time.

Tracy: Then you said you went to a war?

Lemarie: Oh, yeah.

Tracy: Which?

Lemarie: Well, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in December 7,

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	1941. I believe was right. All right, then, we was guarding the White House then. And we stayed at Ft. Meyer, Virginia. That's where the Arlington Cemetery's at. That's where they had a, had a, you know, the big officers and all were buried there, in a horse caravan and then, uh
	Tracy: Fort Meyer?
493	Lemaire: Fort M-e-y-e-r.
	Tracy: M-e-y-e-r.
	Lemaire: Let's see. That's in Virginia. Ft. Meyer, Virginia. And that's where the Tomb of the Unknown Solider's at. At D.C., Washington D.C. And we'd guard that sometimes.
	Tracy: Oh. Then did they send you overseas?
	Lemaire: Well, no, we went (chuckle), we had, we went from there to come along, yeah, we was there and then they come along and it was a little later and they took us and put us both in the infantry again and that's what we was in to start out with (laughs), And then, then one day they, before we'd done very much of that, they come and put us both in the Signal Corps. Him and I was together all this time yet.
	Tracy: What Corps?
	Lemaire: Signal Corps.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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Tracy: Signal?

Lemaire: Signal Corps, yeah.

Tracy: What was that?

Lemaire: Telephone, IBM machines and all that. We stayed in that for, oh, then we got in to pole climbing. Yeah, pole climbing and, well we'd climb. We started out on thirteen foot poles and then sixteen and then forty foot poles. And we was at, uh, in Missouri. Camp Leonardwood, Missouri.

Tracy: Camp Leonardwood?

Lemaire: Then they said, "You two boys would be just right for the riggers." We said, "We sure would." We didn't know what the riggers was. But we thought, boy we'd be it. And, uh, then the war by this time was getting pretty good over Europe and all. It was going pretty good, and, so we got into this rigger business. We went to another, we moved to another part of this camp. The first day we went out for that, looked, and there was a sixty foot pole up in the air and they had spliced a thirty foot pole. That made it ninety foot. And you had to climb them. I told, uh, I told this old
that I just didn't believe I was going to climb it that for them. I, uh, all, they, boys that came back from overseas and all, they'd say, "Well,

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

when you's in riggers you'd climbed one of them poles and snipers would see you and said they'd shoot them all off." Didn't have a chance! (Laughs.) And I listened to all that and I got scared. Well, uh, not really, I just didn't like it. I've never got scared of nothing in my life yet, but I just didn't like it. I told this boy, "Now I'm just not going to climb that." Well, he said, "Come and act like you are", and he said, "cause I want in that." And I climbed up there one time to please him. Then I was in to drinking pretty heavy, both of us was, now I'm about half drunk, me and him both. He was too. We climbed it. When we got down, I felt awful bad (chuckles). I said, "I just ain't going to do that no more." I just told, told them, I said, "I can't climb that."

END OF TAPE ONE

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